

## **Victim Impact Statement of Jane Clementi**

My world came crumbling apart in September 2010. The devastation of the loss of my son was more than I could bear and the thought of reliving it over again was one of the reasons I had gone along with the more than generous pretrial plea “deal”. After having sat through the horrendous and tortuous reenactment of the crimes committed against my son, feeling the pain and anguish that he must have felt during his final days, listening to the lies and deceptions of the defendant, and in light of the jury’s unanimous findings for the crimes committed against my son, MB and now our family, by submitting us to the pain and emotional frustration of the trial, I now know I must seek accountability under the laws of our state under the guidance and direction of Judge Berman.

We do not know what Tyler was thinking or why he did what he did since he did not tell us. He obviously hid his feelings and thoughts very well. Even I had no idea of the despair and torment Tyler must have been feeling and I thought I knew him. Tyler and I had been very connected, so much so that I felt like a piece of me died in September 2010. That connection became very real to me again during the trial as most of the time I was listening and watching as if through Tyler’s ears, eyes, and mind.

The pain and anguish that I felt during the trial was overwhelming at times. As different pieces of evidence were presented, they would trigger memories, both good and bad, but none the less all bittersweet and sad. Even simple things such as Tyler’s laptop, reminded me how he carefully explored his options and then chose the different features he liked best, including the blue color for the case. And the photos of his dorm

room, reminiscing on how carefully we had shopped for all the components of his room, like the lamps and the bedding and all the other accessories. All the dates repeatedly mentioned during the trial, all triggering memories in my head, terrible horrific memories that will forever hold me captive. Some memories seemed good at the time, but have now taken on new meaning for me during and since the trial. As I now have come to a better understanding as to what was really occurring.

One memory I now struggle with most is move in day. The only day I ever encountered his roommate. Tyler was so excited about the move. I could sense a little nervousness on the morning but still so very excited. We had gotten there early, close to the start time so as to have lots of time to get settled before the activities of the day would begin. Oddly, his roommate was nowhere to be seen. All of the other rooms were crowded and busting out with people and excitement. But we were alone. We were able to get Tyler completely settled and organized and had left to go to the book store to get his books before his roommate even arrived. When we returned with Tyler's books, the roommate and his family were present getting him settled. When we entered the room, we said hello and the only response was from his mother, then his father came over to say hello. The roommate ignored Tyler, continuing to work on his computer. He didn't even look up. In this tiny 10 by 14 foot room, it is pretty hard to hide or miss 3 people but he never even paused to acknowledge that Tyler was even in the room. He never stopped what he was doing. Nothing, no greeting, no smile, no recognition, no anything, he just continued in silence to work on his computer. Only after his parents called him over did he stop and come the 2 feet towards us to say hello. More to me and my husband then to Tyler and then he went right back to what he

was doing. At the time, I thought maybe he was stressed by trying to get his computer set up. But thanks to the defense attorney, I have learned that was wrong, after all, he is such a “computer expert”, no stress there. I was also incorrect in thinking that maybe he was shy. Wrong again, according to the defense lawyer he was extremely social and outgoing, making lots of friends in a very short amount of time. So that left me tortured and heartbroken yet again as I sat in the courtroom to think and come to the realization that he came to Rutgers that fall with preconceived ideas about Tyler and he never had any intentions of befriending Tyler or even of being a considerate or trustworthy roommate.

When most people get their roommate’s name and email address, they might either go to Facebook, asking “to be friends” or they could send an email and start a conversation. But yet another terribly painful and unbearable realization I had to learn was Tyler’s roommate did not follow any of these conventional social graces. No instead he took Tyler’s email address put it into different search engines and found out what web sites Tyler frequented. Based on what he found out, he judged Tyler. He decided that he knew all he wanted to know about Tyler. Getting to know Tyler and developing a friendship with Tyler was not what he had in mind. The sad part is what he found out was only one part of who Tyler was. He would never really know Tyler. Not the smart, kind, articulate, humble, funny, talented, caring, thoughtful, generous, trustworthy, and dependable person Tyler was. All he found out was that Tyler was gay.

The fact that Tyler went to the RA shows me just how totally overwhelmed and devastated Tyler must have felt. It was a monumental step that Tyler reached out for

assistance. He rarely ever went for help from his teachers or others. He had always been very resourceful. This act of going to the RA shows me just how totally frustrated and out of control Tyler must have thought this situation was. Tyler knew how serious these actions were and he knew the situation needed to be reported to the authorities. I can't help but still wonder why it was not reported to the police at that time, there may have been a very different outcome.

If setting up the web cam once was not bad enough, doing it a second time, clearly knowing what he would see, and then advertising and promoting it on his public Twitter page is just down right cold and vicious. And to make things even worse, to take credit for disconnecting the web cam, after he knew Tyler had done it and Tyler was not here to speak up for himself, is just malicious and evil. How difficult and torturous it was for me to sit through the lies and deceptions of the defense. I am very grateful to Ms. McClure for allowing the truth on that matter to shine and not get buried. The truth will prevail and it will either set you free or hold you in bondage.

Another devastating part of the trial was learning how many times Tyler went back to his roommate's Twitter page those last few days. The frustration and turmoil must have been just growing faster than the speed of light in Tyler's mind. It appeared from the evidence that this was probably the last thing Tyler looked at on his computer before he left his dorm room for the bridge on Wednesday, September 22, 2010.

My question is why didn't his roommate just request a roommate change? Why was he so arrogant, so mean spirited and evil that he would humiliate and embarrass Tyler in front of Tyler's new dorm mates, the very people Tyler was trying to meet and

become friends with? How could they all just go along with such meanness? Why didn't any one of them speak up and stop it? How did it spiral so out of control? They knew it was wrong and yet no one stopped it. No one spoke up to the "master mind," the "computer genius." We need to make sure everyone knows that these actions are wrong, they are mean spirited, they are evil and most importantly, they are against the law.

To video chat a live stream of someone's most intimate actions without their consent or knowledge is wrong and it's criminal. Tyler did not know how much was or was not observed. All that was racing through his head was what he was reading on the Twitter and Facebook pages. It is overwhelming and so painful, just thinking about Tyler realizing what had happened and his confusion and distress as he tried to decide what he should do next. What could he do? He went to the RA, really, really big for him, monumental. Tyler must have been beside himself to do that!! The anguish and frustration must have been insurmountable to him. Even now 19 months later, I feel such sadness and grief, which quickly turns to anger and rage coming up from deep within me just thinking about these events and what Tyler must have been feeling.

What I want is justice. Many people are watching and I am asking the court to do the right thing. The court needs to show the residents of New Jersey, for that matter the entire country, this was not right, it is not acceptable behavior and it will not be tolerated. I trust The Honorable Judge Berman will interpret the laws and impose the proper sentence that fits the crimes that were committed against my son and MB. Consequences that are significant enough for the defendant to wake up and realize that what he did was wrong. He broke the law and New Jersey does not tolerate criminal

actions without penalties. We are all responsible for our actions and these actions were criminal and require accountability. No one is above the law. Justice must be served.

I would also like to thank the entire Middlesex County Prosecutor's office, specifically Mr. Bruce Kaplan, Ms. Julia McClure, Mr. Chris Shellborn, Lieutenant Randi Colatrella, Investigator Frank Dininno, Agent Nicole Ortiz, Mrs. Jayne Guarino, Mrs. Diane Johnson, Ms. Christi Delgardo, as well as the court employees, Sergeant Keith Lane and all the officers of the court. Each and every member of this team performed in a professional and courteous manner, with the highest level of character and integrity. Their knowledge, skill and expertise made the truth shine and the outcome worth all the pain it caused my family. Also their kindness, understanding and compassion helped me to be able to bear a most intolerable situation. Thank you.

April 12, 2012

## **Victim Impact Statement of Joseph J. Clementi**

Thank you for the opportunity to address the court and summarize the impact that Mr. Ravi's criminal actions have had upon me and my family. It is a difficult task to fully relate these impacts, as they have been severe, shocking, and lasting.

The most aching pain to me is to know the pain suffered by my son as a result of Mr. Ravi's coldhearted violations of him. My son Tyler was a kind and gentle soul who went off to college, trying to make the transition from child to young adult. It's hard for me to imagine the humiliation that he felt by having his most intimate moments violated by the web camming invasion of privacy and attempted invasion of privacy. Tyler had no basis for understanding how a person could perform such a reprehensible act. That a person, any person, much less one he was sharing a room with, a classmate, could do something like this to him.

We know that Tyler's feelings were intense. Among Tyler's last actions was to check Mr. Ravi's Twitter page. Tyler checked Mr. Ravi's Twitter page 37 times before leaving the Rutgers University campus on 9-22-10. Obviously he was upset and obsessing over what people, including residents of his dorm and other viewers of that page, might have seen, and this troubled him deeply.

The emotional pain that I and my family felt when Tyler committed suicide was profound and still is. Days of tears leading to weeks of tears. Extended family visiting, neighbors visiting, some I hadn't seen in years, Tyler's friends from high school, and all the crying. Everybody cried all day long. For weeks. Seeing my wife and my other

children in such a state and realizing there was nothing I could do as a husband or a parent to ease their pain, was in itself painful.

When Tyler practiced his violin at home, I listened to a concert every night. These days the house is quiet.

In late September 2010, the media stationed themselves outside my residence with their telephoto lenses, taking photos of all people entering and leaving our home. This went on for weeks from 9:00am to after 10pm daily. They went door-to-door to attempt to talk to neighbors. One reporter even showed up at my place of employment looking for an interview. Another reporter even came to the side door of my house after my wife entered through it, all the time cameras rolling. One particularly aggressive media personality had to be told that he would be arrested by the Ridgewood police if he trespassed. Not to mention the hundred phone calls daily that I had to field. All of this happening at a time when we needed to recover Tyler's body, make final preparation of his remains, and perform a memorial church service for friends and family.

I realize that Mr. Ravi was not charged with or convicted of causing Tyler's suicide. I understand that Mr. Ravi is not entirely responsible for either the media attention or the suicide, but, as a father, I cannot separate out these impacts of Mr. Ravi's terrible acts. His criminal acts affected Tyler at a very difficult time for him. His criminal acts may have deprived us of the chance that Tyler could have moved through this difficult stage in his life. Nobody other than Tyler understood how vulnerable he



was, yet the fact is that he was very vulnerable and he was very shaken by the cold criminal actions of his roommate.

Mr. Ravi never met nor knew my son before arriving at Rutgers University. He had no call to do what he did. Tyler never did anything to Mr. Ravi to make him dislike him or to cause him to retaliate for some wrongdoing. No, Mr. Ravi did these criminal acts because he saw my son as not deserving basic human decency and respect because my son was different than him, below him, and because he was gay. He did it without a thought or any consideration of how it might affect Tyler, his roommate, or Tyler's friend. He did it in a cold and calculating manner. And then he tried to cover it up. I cannot imagine what his long range plan must have been. How a person who just illegally web cammed his roommate in his most intimate moments and then talked, texted, and tweeted about it, could look him in the eye after that and go back into their room as if nothing had happened. Mr. Ravi still does not "get it." He has no remorse, and he said he was genuinely surprised that the jury could have found him guilty of any of the charges. When asked why he attempted to destroy evidence and influence witnesses, he said that he was trying to fix a problem. This is chilling.

The trial and the preliminary proceedings were very painful for my family and me. Particularly upsetting was the defense effort to further invade our son's privacy by seeking access to his computer and personal writings. We are grateful that the Court saw this as an indecent effort to take the focus from Mr. Ravi's acts by putting Tyler on trial. As a family, we decided that accountability and justice far outweighed any pain or embarrassment that the defense could try to impose upon us or my dead son.

The trial itself was a difficult experience. The pain of having to sit in the courtroom and listen to the cold criminal acts perpetrated upon my vulnerable son without a thought of concern by Mr. Ravi. The pain of having to listen to the lies of the defense counsel, his ultimately unsuccessful attempt at deceiving the jury, as he stated that Mr. Ravi turned off his computer during the second webcam attempt while he knew all along that it was Tyler who turned it off, as Tyler explained in his email to his Resident Assistant, and as proven by computer records and swipe card records. To further be subjected to the defense counsel's attempts to blame everybody else was also upsetting.

We don't know if the email that Mr. Ravi sent to my son Tyler on September 22, 2010 was ever read by him. That email was another cold deception that had no truth to it, and was crafted in order to avoid responsibility for his crimes once Mr. Ravi realized he was in trouble. Tyler may have been dead by the time his phone received it. Listening in court to this blatant attempt to deceive my son, and in effect to use him as part of Mr. Ravi's cover up of his crimes by these lies, was profoundly difficult.

My family and I understand that there are many people world-wide watching this case. We also understand that there are important broader issues of protection of privacy and protection of people against criminal acts that are associated with bias that, while not in this case, will be affected by this case.

The family has said from the beginning that we were seeking justice and accountability, not revenge. And with that accountability come consequences. Justice is a difficult thing to define. Yet when we get it, we know it.

As the statue that sits upon the bench in the very courtroom where the trial was held of a blindfolded woman holding a balance symbolizes, justice is not dependent upon what the media prints, nor how big your swimming pool is, nor what kind of car you drive, nor upon how much money your father has. It depends upon the careful finding and evaluation of facts, verdicts of the jury, and application of those findings, via decisions by the judge, within the framework of the law, and of penalties the law prescribes.

I have said from the start that I would put my trust in the court system to get it right, and I say the same thing for this sentencing. I understand that there are mitigating factors, such as Mr. Ravi's youth, and aggravating factors, such as his lack of any real remorse, that must be taken into consideration. All the more important that the punishment be appropriate. The sentence must be fair, not only to associate actions with consequences, but to serve as an appropriate deterrent. While punishment does not have to be harsh, too little punishment would not provide accountability and would send the wrong message, while an excessive sentence could be counterproductive. Difficult decisions indeed.

I trust that Your Honor will decide well.

April 12, 2012

## **Victim Impact Statement of James Clementi**

Your Honor, I am not the victim of any crime committed by Dharun Ravi - but my family and I have been impacted by the crimes committed against my late brother, Tyler Clementi, and I believe I have personal insights into the way that Mr. Ravi's crimes impacted upon my brother, and what my brother was forced to endure in his brief weeks at Rutgers University.

May 22nd, will be the twenty month anniversary of my brother's passing. In the past twenty months of my life, not only have I had to live with a despair and sadness that has crept into every part of my life and my being, I have also been forced to observe and be silent. Observe while the media picked apart every bit of my brother's final days and his mindset. Observe while many members of the press sought to justify the unacceptable and criminal behavior of Mr. Ravi. Observe throughout the trial the lies that Mr. Ravi's defense team cooked up in a further violation and disrespect to my brother's memory. I watched as Dharun slept through court, as though it was something not worth staying awake for. I listened while Dharun and his defense attorneys laughed together, as though there was a private joke in the courtroom that I and my family were not aware of. And through it all, I listened and bit my tongue.

The truth is that from the moment a computer randomly selected Tyler and Dharun to live together, my brother's fate was sealed. I spoke with Tyler often in the days leading up to his leaving for Rutgers. He was excited and looking forward to the experience of going away to school. He was a brilliant student, a talented and kind person who would never do anything to hurt another person. He could never have

known the viper's nest he was walking into, nor could anyone in my family have imagined a situation so horrible and cruel that he would need to be protected from.

With Dharun Ravi as his roommate, my brother never stood a chance of having a happy and comfortable first semester at college. Dharun did his research online weeks before he ever moved into that room and met Tyler in person. He discovered that Tyler was gay and based on this, dismissed Tyler as unworthy of kindness, acceptance, as a person worth getting to know, and decided instead that he was someone who deserved to be laughed at, picked on and violated. Even before they had ever met each other in person, Dharun was beginning his plot to bully my brother. He thought he had found the perfect target in Tyler Clementi, and just because the situation that he created of his own doing spun further out of control than he would have wanted it to, does not absolve him of legal responsibility for the laws he broke. Nor, in my mind, does it absolve him of the moral responsibility for the human being he broke down. It must be easier to objectify, deride, and humiliate someone if you see them as less than yourself and the friends you are trying to impress, and there is no doubt in my mind that Dharun never saw Tyler as truly a person, only an object of ridicule that he could use to show off his computer abilities and gain some new friends in the process. While Dharun may never truly be able to grasp the pain and fear he pushed into Tyler's heart, I will never be able to stop thinking about it.

Tyler's final days and hours were filled with fear, shame, and a despair so great it ripped him away from me forever. His last moments consisted of knowing that the intimate details of his life were announced to the world on Twitter, that his roommate who had given him a reasonable expectation of privacy in their room had filmed a

sexual encounter and broadcast it to an unknown number of people, many of whom were in the dorm that he lived in, and that his roommate planned to do it again. He knew that not one person who was aware of these things spoke out in his support, or approached him to offer any kindness. I cannot imagine the level of rejection, isolation and disdain he must have felt from all of his peers. Of course it was reasonable for him to think that he was targeted for his sexual orientation. What other reason would Dharun Ravi have had to treat him so cruelly? What offense had Tyler ever done to him?

Dharun Ravi has never shown any remorse, regret, sorrow, guilt, compassion, or humility. He only bothered to apologize to my brother once - through a text message, sent hours after Tyler had gone missing, and only after he realized he might be in legal trouble. In this fake and insincere apology designed to cover his tracks, he dismisses his criminal behavior as a "petty misunderstanding," never seeming to grasp that Tyler, as the victim of a crime, is the one who gets to decide what it was and how he feels about it. It is Dharun's arrogance, his belief that his perception of the damage he did or didn't do is all that matters - that the perception and pain of his victim is insignificant if he says so - that has frustrated me throughout this process. Mr. Ravi and his defense rejected the notion that a crime of bias intimidation had occurred because they were only concerned with Mr. Ravi's perspective. If they had ever bothered to put themselves in Tyler's shoes, it would have been unmistakable to them that a bias crime had occurred. Dharun never bothered to care about the damage he was doing to Tyler's heart and mind; that was inconsequential compared to the fun Mr. Ravi was seeking at the expense of my brother's dignity and wellbeing.

Indeed I have often found myself wondering if Dharun Ravi is even capable of empathizing with another person. Nothing in his behavior during the time he lived with my brother, or since his death, suggests this to be true. My family has never heard an apology, an acknowledgement of any wrongdoing, and remorse for the person who isn't here. The behavior I saw in the courtroom, combined with an interview on the television news program 20/20, suggests a complete lack of concern for my brother or the pain inflicted on him. Mr. Ravi appears untroubled in any way by what he did, how he made my brother suffer. To be honest there is a time when an apology would have actually meant something to me, but now it is clear that anything of the sort would be empty, rehearsed words, spoken without empathy.

In his 20/20 interview, Dharun Ravi states, "I feel like I was an insignificant part to his life. That's giving me comfort now." What reasonable, feeling person could look at the facts of this case and come to such a conclusion? The total lack of compassion and shifting of blame for his own actions seeps through every word Ravi speaks about his crimes. How can he think that he was an "insignificant part" of my brother's life when he knows that his Twitter profile was the last thing Tyler saw on his computer before deciding to end his life? For so long I have craved to hear some small amount of recognition, awareness, and humanity from Mr. Ravi. I have had to accept that this likely will never happen. But I have found a level of comfort in listening to Middlesex County Prosecutors Julia McClure, Chris Shellborne and Bruce Kaplan fighting for my brother's dignity in the courtroom. I often felt during the trial that Ms. McClure was Tyler's champion, that she fought each day to ensure his voice be heard and that the crimes he was victimized by not be ignored. The Prosecutor's office worked hard to do

this, because although it is too late to save Tyler, a precedent must be set to ensure that all bullies will know that the second their behavior crosses the line of criminality, they will be prosecuted. I have found vindication in knowing that an unbiased jury with no preconceived notion of this case or the players involved, was able to see past the lies and understand the heart of what happened. I hold these small comforts close and with gratitude, but there is nothing that can ease the pain of my loss. I love my brother, and I will mourn for him every day for the rest of my life. I ask only for fairness and justice. I ask that the gravity of Dharun Ravi's crimes not be ignored.

Thank you.

April 12, 2012



## Victim Impact Statement of M.B.

I wish to discuss Mr. Ravi's actions and how they affected me. I believe that Mr. Ravi exploited my budding and meaningful relationship with Tyler in his vain attempt to gain attention and popularity with others. When I found out what he had done I was devastated; not only about Tyler's death but also that I was secretly placed under a microscope for the sole amusement of Mr. Ravi and his friends.

It is difficult to describe how all of what has happened has made me feel except to say that it is kind of like a combination of embarrassment, emptiness and fear. I cannot say that these emotions have lessened. In fact, with the recent trial, the media frenzy and seeing the hurt on the faces of the members of the Clemente family, the emotional pain has only intensified up to the present.

When I was consulted by the prosecution about the possibility of a plea bargain, I was not opposed. I had no malice towards Mr. Ravi and I did not necessarily want him to admit to being bias or to have to go to prison. I just wanted him to acknowledge that he had done wrong and take responsibility for his conduct. Mr. Ravi rejected responsibility and it seemed that he became stuck in his own whirlwind of excuses and placing the blame on everyone but himself.

For the past year I was filled with anxiety and hurt as the trial approached. I felt like I was continuously walking in a mine field, waiting for the sudden explosion. I kept my secret from my family because I did not want them to go through the same emotional turmoil that I was experiencing. With each news article I read or saw on

television, this feeling of uncertainty and unsteadiness only became worse. I read what people said about me in their personal comments to some of the news articles. I thought, “They don’t know me.” The people with their opinions, their prejudices and their judgments should stand in my shoes for just one day to try to understand what is like to be forced into being faceless and nameless. Can anyone imagine what it is like to be in a public place and hearing people make disparaging comments about someone they do not know – and that person happens to be you? I have lived that experience over and over and it is paralyzing to have to sit there mute knowing that I cannot defend or explain myself.

As the trial approached, the fear of the unknown became overwhelming for me. Then, having to come into court and discuss my private life to a room full of strangers was extremely difficult. Also, seeing Tyler’s family hurt as they had to endure this whole process has added to the overwhelming stress and anxiety that became so common in my life.

While I bear no anger towards Mr. Ravi, after much thought and many sleepless nights, I must say that Mr. Ravi should serve some type of confinement so that he can reflect on the serious harm he has caused. I do not believe that he has taken responsibility for his conduct, and to this day he seems to blame me for the actions he took. His attorney made it very clear at the trial as did Mr. Ravi in his gratuitous media appearances that I was to be his scapegoat. He wants everyone to believe that his conduct was prompted on each occasion by his concern that I may be a thief and his possessions were at risk as a result of my presence. He even went to go so far as to

say that when he learned about Tyler's death, he thought I might have been involved so videoing me might have been a good thing.

I do not mind that Mi. Ravi has never apologized to me for what he did and said, but I do wonder if it has ever entered his mind that he caused me a great deal of pain, and yet he knows nothing about me. Perhaps if he is required to interact with people that are different from him he will hopefully gain some perspective on the fact there are diverse groups of people on this earth and it is easier to respect and tolerate their diversity than it is to insult it.

I also wish to say that the question of Mr. Ravi being deported has bothered me deeply for while his actions were cruel and childish, I do not feel that he should be denied the right to be an American whether he truly learns and changes or not. If he is ever faced with this dilemma I would be willing to write on his behalf attesting to this.

To sum up my feelings, I wish to state that everyone involved; the Ravi and Clemente families, the prosecutor's office, the judge and the entire court staff and the taxpayers of New Jersey have given their time, energy, emotions and much public money to see that justice was done here. And it was. If the laws mean anything then they must be respected. That is why Mr. Ravi must be held accountable for his conduct. I hope that in going forward he can find true redemption within himself and live with this tragedy in a healthy and productive way.

April 12, 2012

M.B.

## Statement of Sabitha Ravi

*Note: The statement below was taken from prepared remarks. It may differ slightly from what was said in court.*

My name is Sabitha. I have two kids, one is 20 years old, Dharun, and another younger boy is 10.

In 1997, when Dharun was barely 5 years old, we moved to America with only two suitcases in our hands, leaving behind our family and friends. All we had were lots of hopes and dreams for Dharun's education and a bright future in this wonderful country. When we came here, Dharun could barely speak any English. Soon, he learned and quickly adapted to this culture and environment. Now he can barely understand our Indian language.

He started kindergarten and entered into the Gifted and Talented program, and when he was in fifth grade, he got into the CTY (Center for Talented Youth) by John's Hopkins University. He had been attending their programs through high school.

He is an enthusiastic learner. When he was in high school, he started showing his passion toward programming in computer, track and field and Ultimate Frisbee. Since we are the first generation of immigrants to this country, my son, Dharun, knows he has to work hard to establish (himself) in this great nation. He always puts forth lots of effort and hard work to excel in any area, one of which is computers. He started exploring programming when he was 15 and still is trying his best to improve his skills.

In September 2010, he entered Rutgers with his dreams and hard work in his mind. Even though he has passion toward computers, he chose economics for his major, since he got interested in it from his junior year in high school.

After his high school graduation, in August 2010, Dharun went to India and got blessings from his grandparents and started his college full of excitement and plans for his career path.

As a mother, it was very hard for me to drop my first born in the dorm, away from home. But I was very excited for him. It is always a pleasure for me to see him grow into a wonderful person. He is very well-mannered and a self-content person. Since he is very open and likes to make new friends, he didn't choose his high school friends to be his roommates.

I still remember the move-in day, when we entered his dorm room. No one was there, but the well-organized left side of the room showed that his roommate was already there and had chosen his side preference. So, we started organizing Dharun's stuff on the right side of the room, where the bed and desk were already placed.

Within half an hour, Dharun's roommate entered the room with his parents and he sat at his desk and started doing something on his computer. We exchanged hellos and had a brief talk between organizing.

After a while, his parents left and I stayed there for an hour more to help Dharun fix his things as his roommate was sitting at his computer the whole time. What I thought was, "Once I leave, he will start to talk to Dharun." I rushed to finish everything and said goodbye to Dharun and went to his roommate and shook his hand and wished him good luck in college and left.

In the following days, whenever I talked to Dharun, I asked him how his roommate Tyler is and he told me that he is very quiet but is nice. I thought eventually he will come to our house with Dharun. It is so sad that he chose to end his life early. My heart goes out to the family.

Dhraun is very affectionate with the family. When he started college, even though he has lots of friends and a new social life, he came home all the weekends during the three weeks he stayed at the dorm, to see his younger brother and our dog, Lance. Our younger son adores Dharun. When Dharun left for college, he missed him a lot, and now Dharun is always home and he doesn't understand what his big brother is going through. It is very hard for me to explain the whole situation. He always asks me, "Is he going to be okay? Can you promise me?" It really breaks my heart.

From the end of September 2010 to this day, what my son Dharun is going through, there are no words for me to explain. The smile and his bright eyes are all gone from his face.

When it all started and the media was ripping him apart with their misleading facts and the wrongful statements of prominent people, he was absolutely devastated and broken into pieces. The media misconstrued the facts to the public and misconceptions were formed about Dharun and his character.

I was watching him helplessly and all I could do is hug him and cry. I didn't have any power to stop all of this and save my son and prove to the world what a kind-hearted and loving person he is. He doesn't have hatred toward anybody.

These past 20 months, my son has been sitting home, holding all of the stress and pressure inside. He had not gone out anywhere to socialize or to meet friends or just grab a sandwich. With all this going on in his life, he tried to put his focus on completing his online courses he has signed up for and the programming he is working on.

He is spending his whole day reading and learning new technologies on his own. He completely drowns himself into these. Food has not been important to him for the last 20 months. He literally eats only one meal a day as he suppresses his hunger. He has lost more than 25 pounds going through this ordeal.

As this is hard for me to watch, the thing that worries me a lot is how the stress building up inside him is affecting his health internally.

Dharun's only comfort now is his younger brother and our dog Lance. When I see Lance cuddle with Dharun, I feel that he understands the pain he has been going through and tries to console him with his unconditional love.

Dharun's dreams are shattered and he has been living in hell for the past 20 months. It is hard for me to say but my son is physically alive in front of everyone's eyes. While I am sharing his pain, I make sure he knows that I love him.

As a mother, I feel Dharun has really suffered enough the past two years. The media's influence on this case is devastating.

My 20-year-old son already has too much burden on his shoulders to face the rest of his life. I strongly believe the honorable judge will give him a chance to try his best to lead a normal life.

I am hoping and waiting to see Dharun eat as any 20-year-old would.

Thank you.

## Statement of Ravi Pazhani

*Note: The statement below was taken from prepared remarks. It may differ slightly from what was said in court.*

Honorable Judge,

My name is Ravi Pazhani, father of Dharun, a long time New Jersey resident, a 1st generation immigrant and more importantly a proud Citizen of the United States. I stand by what this nation stands for and its beliefs, core principles and I will never compromise that position even if it means to sacrifice everything I have. This is my country and Home. Don't force us to go back.

For the past 20 months a history has been in the making and we have witnessed several chapters of vengeful, malicious, selective prosecution filled with lies and injustice. Now it is time for the final chapter, honorable judge we all know you have the power and final say but please show heart today, to make sure the last chapter is all about truth, justice and preserve the sanctity of American judicial system which is widely believed to be the best in the world.

Our judicial system advocates "Presumption of Innocence." Probably this is one of the cases that violates that golden rule, where Dharun was first found guilty, followed by case build up, a trial and here we are waiting for sentencing. In addition, he was convicted of Bias Intimidation under a "muddled law" as described by yourself. Your honor, with your actions please ensure the final chapter of this sad story end on a good note and not the beginning of "American nightmare."

In Sept. 2010 we lost a fine young man, prematurely, and ever since our lives changed inside out in many different ways. We have all come to know how talented violinist Tyler was, how he could ride unicycle while playing violin, kindhearted, quiet and admirable young man, a son and a brother. But what we would never know is what a gentleman he would have become, all the positive contributions he would have made to the society to make it better place for next generation had he lived longer.

We will never know. As an American, I may look different, may have a different skin color, may speak differently than most, but believe me I am a parent first and my parental instincts are no different from any other parents out there. Rest of our lives will never be same again. Rest in Peace Tyler, you will always be in our thoughts and prayers until our last breath.

Every coin has two sides and so does this story. In this case, until the trial, no one cared about the more truthful side of this story because it was not sensational, doesn't help media ratings, doesn't give any political mileage and doesn't help advance lobby group's agenda. Even it meant going against the

constitution and denying Dharun the fundamental constitutional right, "presumption of innocence."

Someone said, a lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance. This has become so true in Dharun's case. A monster, ruthless bully, hateful character was given birth instantly to dump everybody's collective guilt. The people in power could have done the right thing by providing the facts to the media clarifying in timely fashion, that there was no video recording nor any video was transmitted over the Internet and Dharun Ravi was not charged for Tyler Clementi's suicide. This is where truth was compromised and the story became a media storm.

Unlike the rest of the world, honorable judge please consider the fact that Dharun, on Sept 2010, was 18 and not a fully grown adult at that time this happened and barely about a month out of high school. He has been living in self-exile for past 20 months. Since then he seldom leaves the house for any social activity and completely withdrawn from his friends. As a 20 year old how much more is he expected to endure?

Contrary to the false propaganda, we are not homophobic family. Dharun was not raised to hate Gays. He didn't grow up in such an environment. We live in a diverse community. What is surprising as his parents is, how can a person who has never acted as a bully at school, from KG to Senior in high school or outside in social circle go from that passive child to hard core bully overnight? Every single prosecution witness corroborated he had never had any hatred nor said anything derogatory against Gays.

All the good comments Tyler made clearly shows bullying has no role to play in this case. It is all the imagination of people, who want to further their agenda at any cost even if it means burning an 18 year old, my son Dharun, alive. Dharun has been the target of nonstop bullying by prosecutors, media and politicians and well-connected lobbyists.

Dharun is punished for what happened after that the incident. This trial didn't comment explicitly on the suicide in the trial process but prosecutors got the benefit of it by keeping it hanging out there for jurors. As a result Dharun has been charged for something and punished for something totally different resulting in an unfair trial. In addition, he has been convicted of a hate crime Where the law applied is itself "muddled."

Honorable Judge, My son Dharun, has been ridiculed for everything he has done since the story came out. He is being criticized for saying something and blamed for not saying anything. He has been dragged through the mud all along, but what has been asked all along is him NOT being remorseful. Dharun apologized to Tyler Clementi for his actions via email + text but that no one has ever accepted the apology, rather it has been ridiculed. We tried to reach the family



through their attorney, but the doors were shut on us. Prosecutors are saying this trial is not about suicide, you concur, Tyler's family said they don't want to hold Dharun responsible for suicide. But the media paints a different picture, any printed story, any report on TV starts with suicide, ends with suicide and Dharun is used to connect the two. Many jurors interviewed after the verdict reaffirmed that their decision was overwhelmed by the suicide. Just asking the jurors to ignore the suicide apparently didn't work in this case. For my son, Dharun, to get a fair trial the actual reason for suicide should have been disclosed before the trial and also allowed to be admissible in court. I know it is too late now, but please give us closure on this.

As a father of Dharun, a young man, who has spent last 20 months in isolation with bleak future if he is sent to jail today, I am standing here helplessly and never felt so powerless in my entire life.

I'm requesting you to take courage use your discretionary powers and prevent my son, Dharun, from going to jail today and allow my son to become a productive member of this American society.

I belief in our, American Justice System, and while the world is watching, I hope that the common sense prevails today.

Thank you for giving me opportunity to speak today.